Smith, J C

Aug, Oct. 1915

life, and I see him occasionally. One man I'd like to see again is Pat. Duncan. He was Colonial Secretary in the Transvaal when they had ~~Colon~~ Crown Colony Government, took a fancy to S. Africa, & settled down there as a lawyer & Parliamentarian. I haven't heard of him for some years. He was very able. But I don't know, on the whole, that any of the group has done so well as you.

I must post this tonight to catch the mail. I'll have another talk with Kennedy, and write again.

Yours very truly

J. C. Smith

46, Murrayfield Avenue,
Edinburgh,
19 Aug. 1915.

Dear Falconer,

Your letter gave me great pleasure; I slept better that night than I had done for weeks. It was pleasant, for one thing, to know that you hadn't forgotten me, and had even turned an eye in my direction occasionally. I shall not attempt to answer your letter to-night. I wish merely to repeat

for " let us keep open the possibility for both of us". It will give me something, at least, to dream about for a few weeks longer. I am constantly working at English Literature - generally with a purpose - but since I began to think of this chair I have pleased myself with an imaginary audience. It helps to keep one from treading on those horrors.

Ah, my dear President, it is not enough that our cause is just: justice will prevail, I hope: but who can say when? The mills of God grind slowly.

But I will not dwell on these things to-night, but rather tell you that I was visiting my mother a week ago, and saw an old photograph of an Edinburgh Honours group which contains us two. I looked a long time at it, considering what had become of the rest. Of some I have lost sight; but Tennant was here some eighteen months ago - then acting with phthisis, poor fellow; W. G. Smith is a lecturer in the University here; C. H. Douglas has retired from practice from politics, but still takes an important share in public

simply talk high treason unrebuked. They remember how Briand crushed the French railway strike, and see their power menaced. Others are merely honest Jeremies, who are at the mercy of old catchwords. They'd fight rather than fight! Frankly, there are people in this county whom nothing but invasion will convince. Yet I must say the workingmen I've talked to were generously patriotic, and perhaps if a clear lead were given they'd follow.

But America beckons home as a haven for the girls; and your job is the only one on that continent that I know of in my line. So I cling to that possibility.

Kennedy's "Theology of the Epistles" is ready; I have read it in typescript. Grierson succeeds Saintsbury. I was spoken to about both the Edinburgh & Aberdeen chairs; but if I change it will be for nothing in Scotland.

46 Murrayfield Avenue,
Edinburgh,

10. X. 15.

My dear Falconer,

When Grierson last night mentioned McIver's appointment to your Chair of Economics, the pang of envy that shot through me told me very clearly how much the "possibility" meant that you proposed in your last letter to keep open. I cherish the hope that it is still open – that

Yours very truly, J. C. Smith

in the reduced state of your members, and possibly of revenue, you contemplate making no appointment for the present session. I know that the session has opened, because I read about your Presidential address in an Edinburgh paper. 1200 men! Well done, Toronto!

Since I wrote to you last the war has entered on a new and critical phase. Thanks to Bulgarian treachery and Greek pusillanimity our situation in the Balkans is most precarious. Yet the German game depends essentially on their keeping one front firmly planted in the West; and if we can smash in their Western front we may spoil their game yet. But the bloodshed will be awful.

My own conviction is, that we cannot win without conscription, and that conscription means the ruin- I don't say more- of many. Since I wrote to you I have been taking an class in Workshop Practice and meeting working men. Individually they are decent chaps; but think of their Unions, and suspicions of the employers. Their leaders- men like Smillie & Thomas-